

Teen Drug Use

The Parents' Resource Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE) survey administered to some Clark County students during the spring of 1997 included questions on drug use and availability.

- Student marijuana use during 1996 ranged between 23.6% of all 8th graders surveyed and 41.7% of all 12th graders surveyed. Nearly half of the 12th graders stated marijuana was very easy to obtain.
- Students who had used cocaine during the previous year included 4.5% of 8th graders, 5.1% of 10th graders and 4.2% of 12th graders surveyed. Approximately 15% of 12th graders stated cocaine was very easy to obtain.

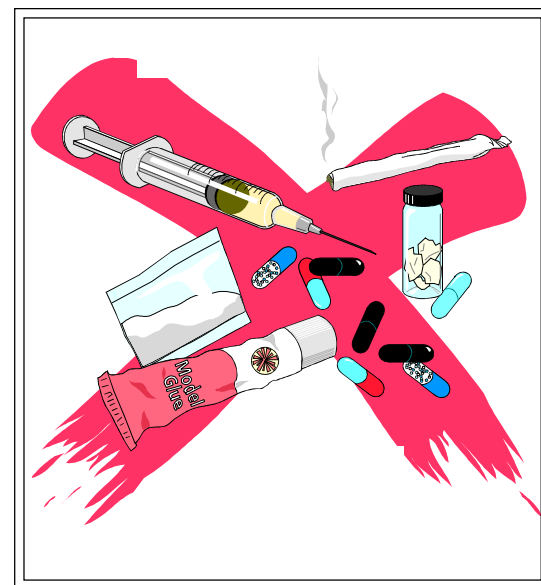


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Southwest Washington
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Drug Abuse

in Clark County



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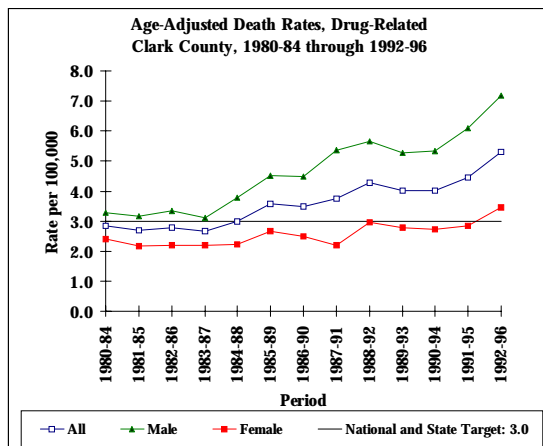
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Drug use in Clark County is growing and affecting an increasing number of people. School students report using drugs and obtaining them with relative ease. Crimes involving possession and sale of illegal drugs are also climbing. Use of injection drugs is also a source of spreading diseases such as HIV and hepatitis. The number of deaths from drugs rose between 1992 and 1996.

Drug-Related Death

The drug-related death rate for all ages in Clark County rose sharply since the mid-1980s.

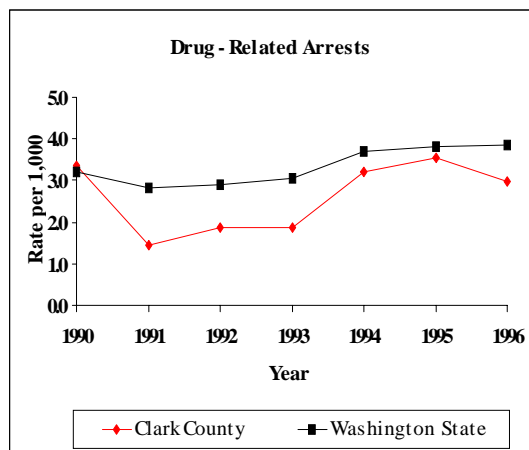
- There were 82 drug-related deaths between 1992 and 1996.
- The victims of drug-related deaths in Clark County were twice as likely to be males than females in 1992-96.
- Between 1992 and 1996, Clark County's drug-related death rate was 5.3 per 100,000, almost twice the state and national goal of 3.0 per 100,000.



Drug-Related Crimes

Persons arrested for drug-related crimes were either in possession of various drugs, or in the act of selling the drugs.

- The Clark County arrest rate rose for drug-related crimes between 1991 and 1992. The state had a more gradual rise in similar crimes.
- The manufacture of methamphetamine renders buildings unfit for human use due to the release of hazardous by-products. Structures condemned due to use as methamphetamine labs rose from 3 in 1993 to 9 in 1997.



Injection Drug Use

Keeping "dirty" needles off the streets reduces the spread of disease. The Southwest Washington Health District's syringe program exchanges used needles for clean syringes on a one-for-one basis, and provides information about treatment and other health and social services.

- Between the first quarter of 1996 and the last quarter of 1997 the number of needles exchanged increased by a factor of almost 24 times.

